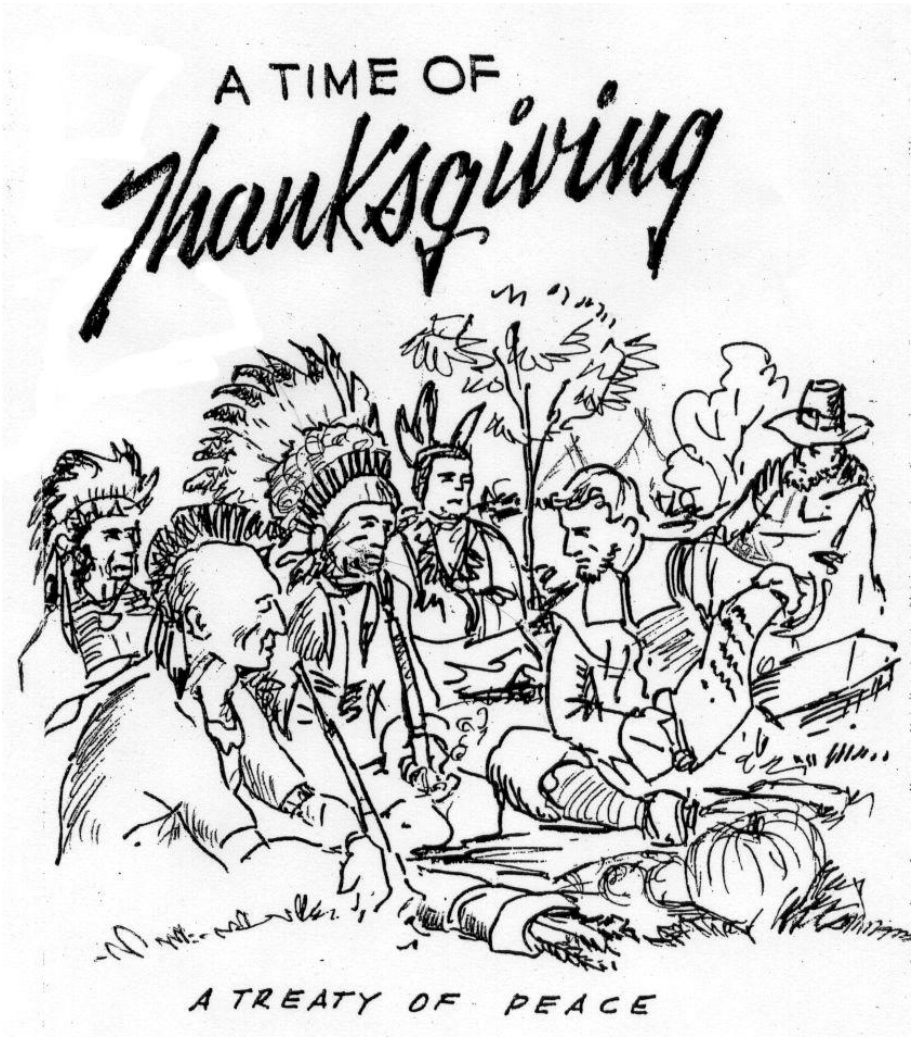
The Blurb

Newsletter of The Phil−Mont Mobile Radio Club

Public Service Since 1949

Volume 53 Number 11 http://www.phil−mont.org November 2003



In This Issue

W3QV/R gets some new ears.....3
Ask Ted.....7
VE Exam Session Statistics 8
PMRC Board of Directors October Meeting.....8
October PMRC General Meeting 9

The Blurb is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL−MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. ***Copying and quoting*** is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. ***Subscriptions*** are available to non−members for $10, addressed to the Treasurer.

Editor: Maggie Leber **K3XS**
k3xs@arrl.net 610−630−9862 http://voicenet.com/~maggie

Asst. Editor and Club Archivist: Gwen Patton **NG3P**
ng3p@arrl.net 610−630−9862

Artist: Sam Kuncevich **N3QIE** (his 544th issue)
Labels and mailing: **WB3KOJ** & **WB3KOH**

Submissions deadline: all copy must be in the hands of the Editors by the 20th of the previous month.

Contact Phil−mont:

P.O. Box 88
Abington, PA 19001
http://www.phil−mont.org
webmistress Maggie K3XS k3xs@arrl.net

For club information: contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes, and articles that are for the membership e−mail list should be sent to:
wb3koj@comcast.net

Sunday Morning Net Schedules

- **2 Meter/ 70cm Net**.....at 09:30et on W3QV repeater
- **10−on−10 Net** .....at 10:00et 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)
- **75 meter Net** .....at 10:20et 3.993 MHz LSB

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the **second non−holiday Wednesday** of every month except July and August at
The Masonic Home
801 Ridge Pike
Lafayette Hill, PA
19444−1799
All visitors are welcome!

License Examinations

are held on the **first non−holiday Thursday** each month (except July and August) at
Northeast High School,
Cottman and Algon Streets, Philadelphia PA
Registration begins at 6:00 P.M. Enter through the SPARC wing. Exams begin and doors closed and locked at **6:30 P.M. Sharp!** .Applicants should call Dusty ND3Q at 215−879−0505 (day) or 215 482 0386 (eve) for the latest information.

Club Stations

W3QV Club Repeater − *Trustee*: W3BBB
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz
W3AA at Northeast High School −*Trustee:* WU3I
Cottman and Algon Streets, Philadelphia, PA
W3EM − Field Day and special event station
Trustee: **W3VVS**

***President:*KB3IV**
Ed Masarsky
15 Poe Ave
Wyncote PA
19095−2903
215−572−5238
kb3iv@verizon.net

***Vice President:*W3STW**
Al Tribble
2848 Carter Rd.
Trevose PA 19053
wstw@juno.com

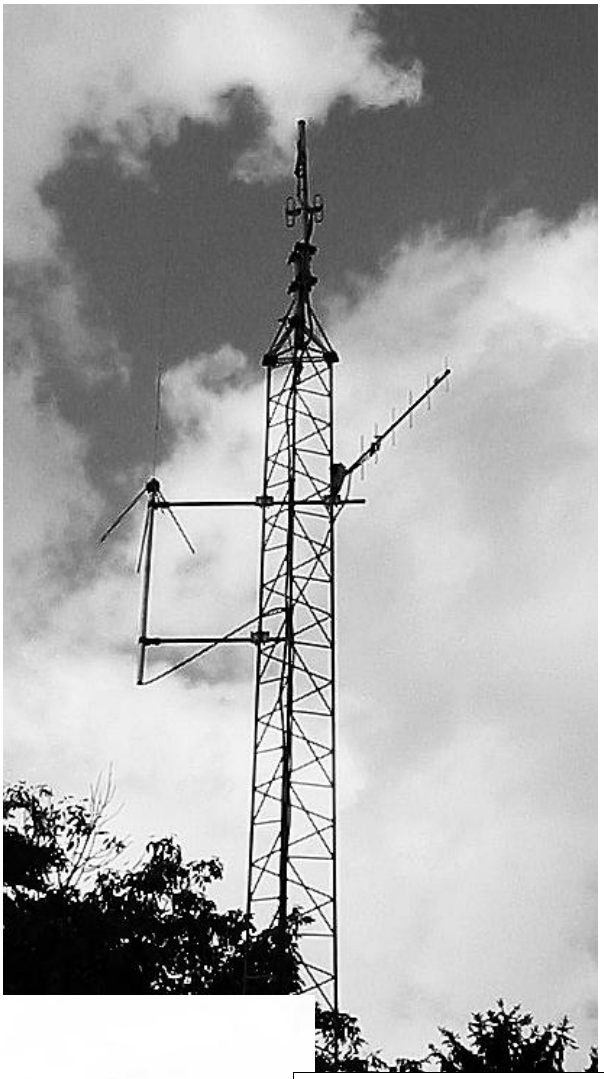
***Secretary*:WA3KIO**
Fred Rice
1933 Greymont St.
Philadelphia PA
19116−3804
215−673−2854
wa3kio@arrl.net

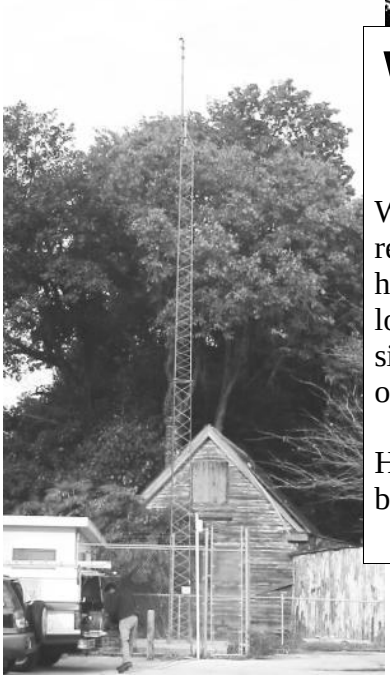
***Treasurer*: W3RM**
Richard A. Moll
roger.mike@verizon.net
Asst. Treasurer: N3MT
Micheal P. Taraborrelli
mtarab01@villanova.edu

***Directors*: WU3I (04), W3BBB(03), N3MT (03), K3CJ (04), W3AOK(03), K3XS(04), N3XKE (A)**

Committees

Archives: NG3P
Audit: NS3K
Awards: open
Blurb folding: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH
Directory:WB3KOJ
DX: N3MT
Emerg.Coor.: K3HWE
Field Day: open
Internet: K3XS
Membership: W3LEN
Net Control: KB3IV
Publicity: W3RM
Program: Club VP
Public Service: open
Refreshments: W3AOK
Repeater: W3BBB
Skywarn: WX3PHI
Sunshine: N3GLU
Youth: N3MT
TVI: W3VVS
VE Program: ND3Q
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
Welcome: K3CJ.

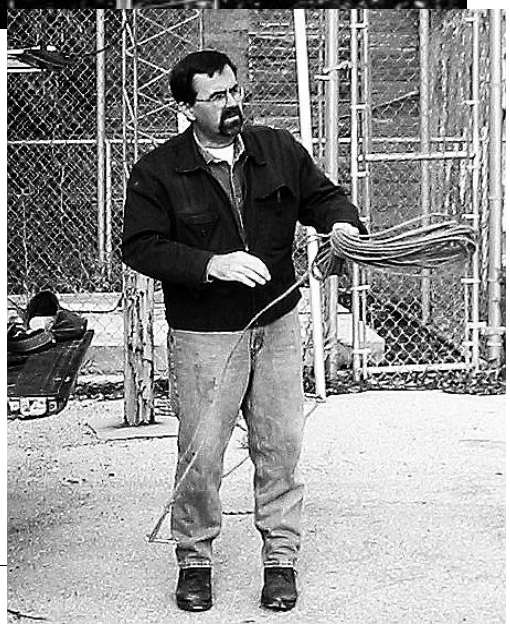




W3QV/R gets some new ears...

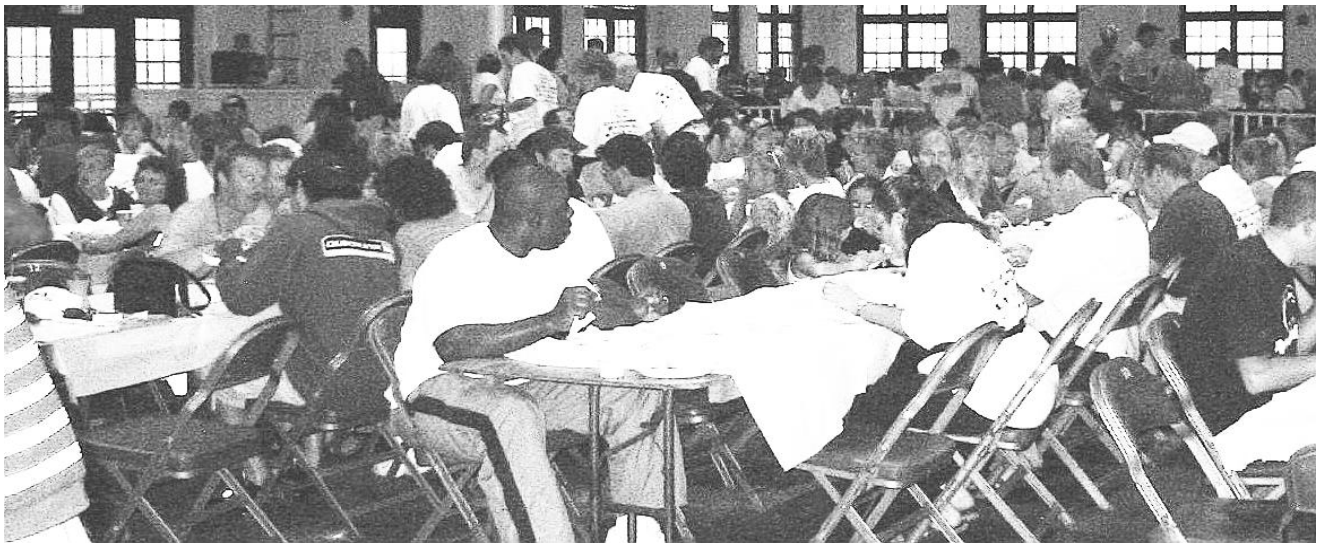
When south or west of the W3QV/R repeater site in Roxborough, you may have noticed the repeater working a lot better after a new remote receiver site in Villanova PA became operational.

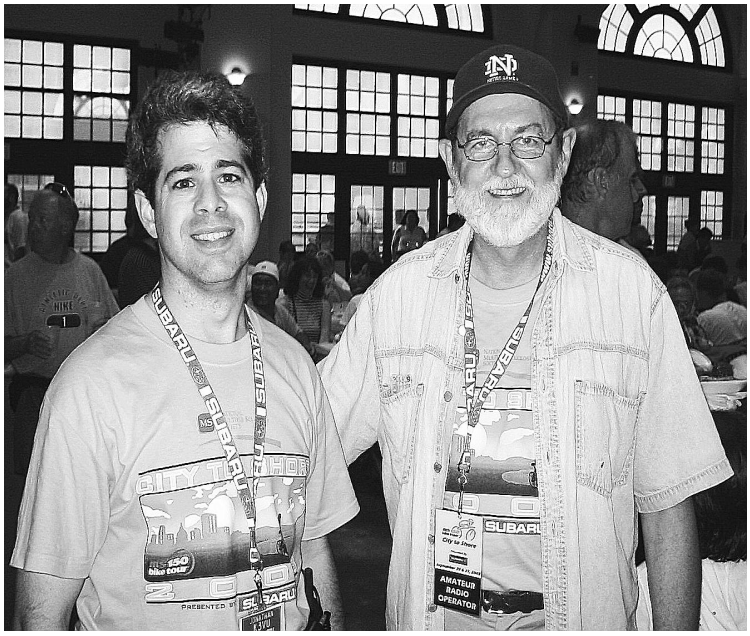
Here's WU3I doing the tower work to bring us that additional coverage.

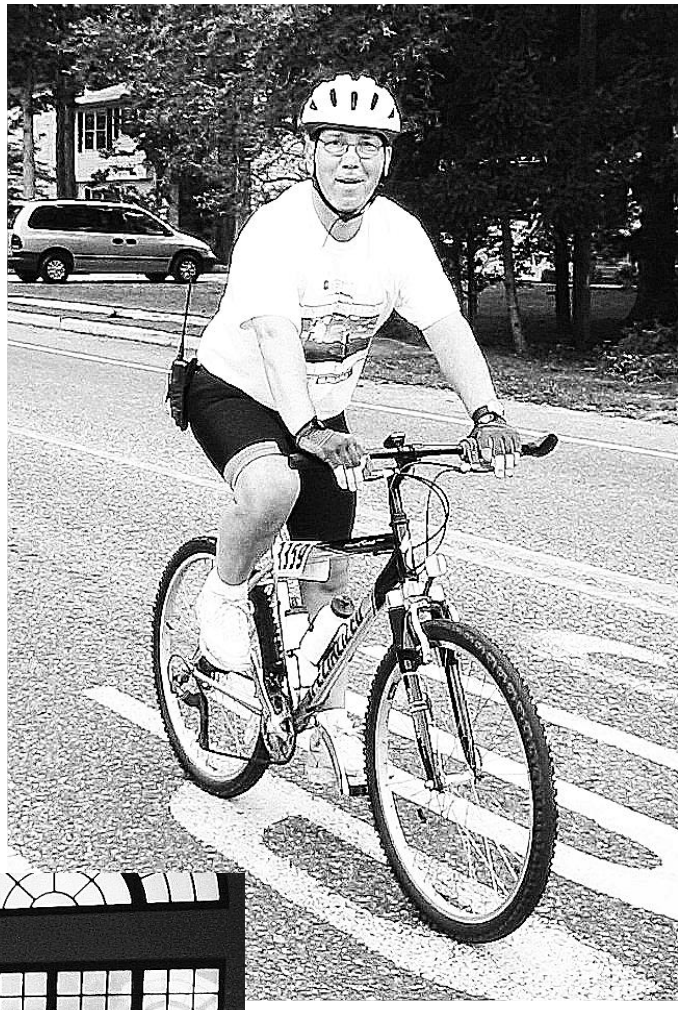


ms 150 bike tour®

2003







ms 150 bike tour®

2003

AMSAT−NA President Robin Haighton VE3FRH with a model of AMSAT−E ("Echo")

AMSAT announces Echo project launch March 2004

AMSAT−North America has announced that launch of the AMSAT OSCAR−E Amateur Radio microsat−−the "Echo Project"−−has been moved up to March 31, 2004. (Earlier plans had called for a May 2004 launch.)

Echo Project Team member Rich Hambly, W2GPS, reported at AMSAT−NA's Annual Meeting and Space Symposium October 18−19 in Toronto, Canada, that the Echo project has made significant progress in recent months, including powering up the Echo flight hardware in late summer in a "flat−sat" configuration at SpaceQuest, AMSAT's contractor for satellite construction and payload integration.

Data communications, command and control, and attitude control subsystems were tested, in addition to the radio equipment, power systems and cabling.

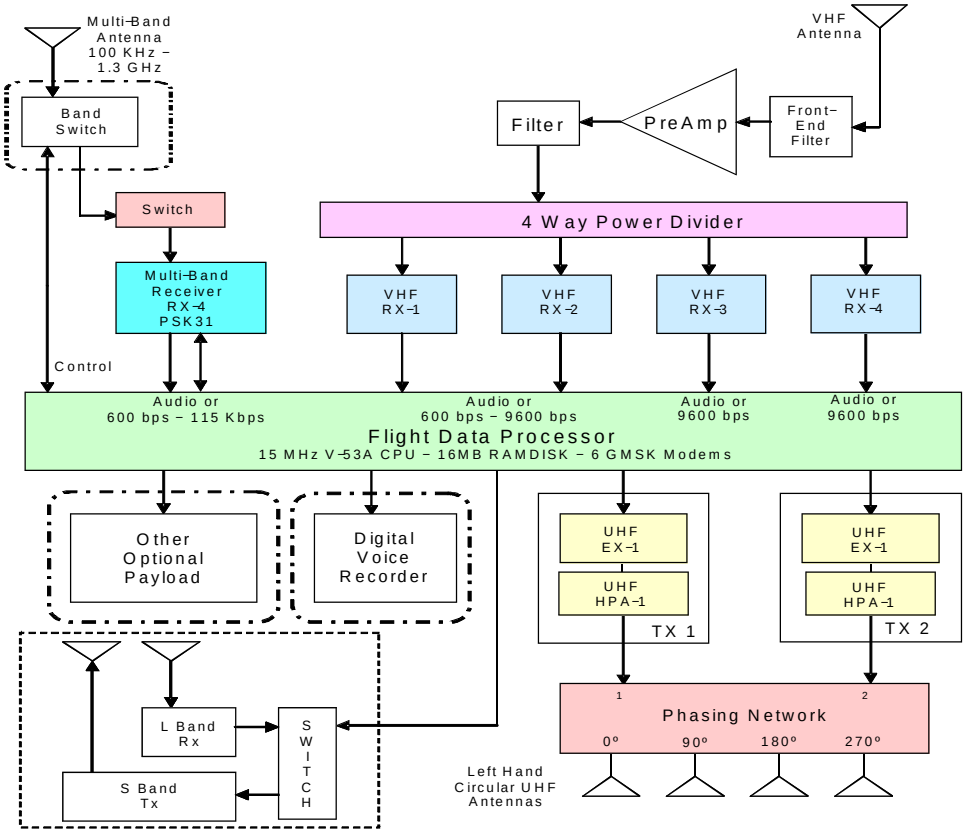
This is the ninth amateur satellite based upon the AMSAT−NA "Microsat" design from the 1990's, and combines many of the most popular, older modes along with some new technologies for the experimenter.

A Russian Dnepr LV rocket−−a converted SS−18 intercontinental ballistic missile−−will carry the approximately 10−inch−square satellite into a low−Earth orbit from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

The satellite will incorporate two UHF transmitters, each running from 1 to 8 W and capable of simultaneous operation, four VHF receivers, and a multiband, multimode receiver capable of operation on the 10 meter, 2 meter, 70 cm and 23 cm bands. Echo will feature V/U, L/S and HF/U operational configurations, with V/S, L/U and HF/S also possible. FM voice and various digital modes−−including PSK31 on a 10−meter SSB uplink−−also will be available.

Echo will be the most powerful microsat to date, using a downlink power of 8 watts. Other Microsats have had considerably less power (UO−14 2−3W, SO−50 250mW AO−27 500mW)

ECHO should be usable with a standard handheld from almost anywhere. The orbit will be polar, providing six passes a day each lasting 10−14 minutes.



Ask Ted

Answers to e−mail questions

Q: From W3NE (Bob) my system was booting in 30 seconds now boots in 75 seconds. I am going to re−install ME. Should the latest BIOS version be installed before re−installing Windows ME?

A: The short answer (no comments here) is Yes. Installing updated BIOS is usually a good thing to do. Check what the update does (changes) if you are not in need of the changes do not flash the bios. Reason, it is a process that can cause more problems than it fixes so tread lightly.

The re−install will most likely fix the BOOT slow down of Bob's Dell 4100. Unless there is a hardware problem, so before we reinstall, lets take a good look at the problem. To begin I would like to chat about the booting process.

First lets define BOOT; the system is booting until it gets to the logon screen!

1: Post or **P**ower **O**n **S**ystem **T**est is first; the general health of the system is checked here. Usually if a problem exists here it is obvious.
2: CMOS is checked to figure out where the system is booting from (hard disk, floppy, cd etc.) and the geometry of the disk drive. That is the physical layout of the hard disk drive. The master boot record (mbr) sectors are always on the active partition starting at cylinder 0 head 0. So all the bios/cmos has to do is recal the drive.
3. The boot loader now takes over the job of booting, the boot loader finds the operating system, then starts the load from disk.
4. The boot loader loads a mini−operating system that can load all the drivers that are needed to run the Operating System. Subsequently the OS starts.
5. The boot process is finished when the login screen pops up.

Steps 1−3 normally do not cause any problems or cause a system to slow down. So the process that is slowing down the boot is most likely in one of following three areas. **Hard Disk, Network or Software;**

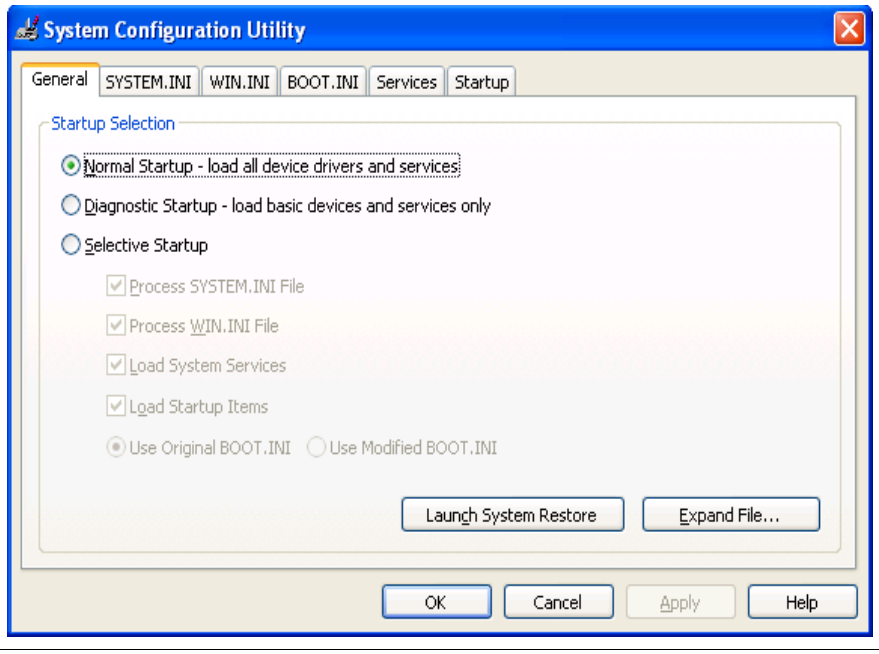
Hard disk: Problems with the disk drive (hardware) can show up during the scandisk operation. A big clue here are bad clusters; if the bad clusters are in a string that is contiguous 3 or more (new) in a row there is a very high probability that there was a disk crash. Even if the scandisk fixes all of the problems, there may be chunks of debris floating around that will cause read errors and retries slowing down disk operations. These errors can be soft or hard errors. Hard errors are immediate and catastrophic (abort retry fail) while soft errors will cause retries until a set number of failures occur or the read has completed, therefore slowing the load process down. Sometimes if you listen or watch the disk activity led you can see repetitive actions. This type of event is also a good indicator of disk problems. If any of the above is true it is time to replace your drive.

The second hard drive issue is fragmented files. The FAT(file) system tends to fragment fairly quickly. Details of the FAT system are to complex to deal with in this article. Just believe that after installing/un−installing programs and making/deleting files you will have fragmented files. This causes the disk head to jump around when loading a file this jumping process is called "ping ponging" and takes more time for the system to access disk data so always defrag before trying other fixes.

Network: The next problem area is networking. This is usually from a missing or bad connection. A lot of processes can occur to add your system to a network, all these network processes come with re−tries/time outs some as long as a minute or two and will cause the boot process to be slower then normal. The easiest way to troubleshoot this area is to record all of your settings, then remove the network setup completely.

Software; Drivers This is a mess, hard to troubleshoot and very tedious. Now that I've said all of that, on with the show. Windows SE, ME and XP have a friend called msconfig. It is an application that will help define driver problems. So login and wait for the desktop to finish loading. Then click start, run and type msconfig

You should have a dialog something like the one below
Fig 1 is a XP dialog box, 98 SE and Me will have addition tabs for autoexec.bat and config.sys. XP does not use these files.
Select the startup tab.
Now click on all of the check marks turning them off. Then reboot. Remember the boot ends at the login screen. If the system speeds up then one or more of the drivers involved with the startup is the bad



guy. Add the startup files back one at a time until you find the bad guy. Then you will need to relate that startup file back to application. Uninstall the program, and then reinstall it. If there is no difference, (make sure all boxes are re−checked) click on the general tab. Then select selective startup turn off one box at a time and reboot.

If none of the above changes the boot time, it is time to re−install the operating system. Don't forget to save all of your data before you wipe the system.

System wipe:
Run fdisk delete all partitions
Power off (This will clear all data in memory)
Boot using floppy and create the DOS partition. Format.Then install the OS.

DE N3OWM 73's

PMRC Board of Directors October Meeting

Attending were Gene N3XKE, Jim W3BBB, Dick W3RM, Charlye K3CJ, Steve WU3I, Al W3STW, Maggie K3XS, Fred WA3KIO, and Ed KB3IV. Ed called the meeting to order at 8:10pm.

Treasurer: Dick W3RM reported some income this month due to equipment sold and some contributions made to the scholarship fund.

Emergency Coordinator position went to Larry K3HWE, a position formerly held by Gene N3XKE.

Blurb: Maggie K3XS is looking for articles. Ted N3OWM is also looking for computer questions for his Blurb column.

New Member: An application from Steve Victor WA2DTW was voted on. Dick W3RM made a motion to accept Steve as a new member. Steve WU3I seconded it. Welcome to Steve WA2DTW.

Website: Everything is up to date.

Publicity: Ed KB3IV discussed ways to publicize W3AA/W3YC once things are ready.

W3AA/W3YC: Steve WU3I reported that he received the eight copies of Now You're Talking and also the Tech Q and A manuals. Steve made a motion under the W3AA account to authorize the funds for the needed manuals. Jim seconded it. The station is in good shape with one operational HF station, 10 through 40 meters. FM is fully operational.

Al W3STW reported that a meeting is to be held the next day with prospective students. The first class starts Tuesday October 14th and run up to June. Al needs an instructor for Thursdays, as he will not be able to be there.

Repeater: Jim W3BBB said that the antennas are going up tomorrow for Villanova.
Southampton has been working well.

At this time, with no new or old business, Al W3STW made the motion to adjourn. Dick W3RM seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.

73 de WA3KIO

ARRL VEC

209th Monthly

Phil−Mont VE Exam Session Statistics

for October 2, 2003

Five candidates took eight elements, and we had two upgrades and three new amateurs. The VE team was chaired by Dusty Rhoads **ND3Q**, and the other participating VEs were Jim McCloskey **NS3K** and Steve Hoch **WU3I**

Upcoming Exam Sessions:
November 7, 2003 −December 4, 2003 −January 8, 2004
(See page 2 for details)

October PMRC General Meeting

28 People were in attendance of the general meeting. Ed KB3IV called the meeting to order at 8:07pm.

Jim W3BBB reported we have a new input in Villanova. Both Villanova and Southampton were off this night but will be back in operation shortly.
Maggie K3XS is always looking for articles for the Blurb.

Mike N3MT was not available for the DX report. It was mentioned that band conditions at this time are poor.

Ed KB3IV reported that the nets are running fine with Eric N3YXZ doing fine running all three nets on his first time.

Steve WU3I reported that W3AA at Northeast High School is ready for painting. Antenna work is on hold pending what is happening with installing a foundation for a tower. One full HF station is in operation along with 2 meters, 220 and 440. Satellite operation is almost ready.

Al W3STW reported that with classes starting the following Tuesday, they have more students applying than they can handle. Al asked for additional instructors to help out with about 65 days of school time to cover 494 questions. Classes will start on October 14th.

Jim NS3K reported that there were three new licenses and two upgrades to extra including Gene N3XKE.

Larry K3HWE took on the position of emergency coordinator formerly held by Gene N3XKE.

After the 50/50 and a five minute break, the meeting was turned over to Norman Carpenter of Verizon who presented a talk on fiber optics and demonstration of methods of splicing them.

73 de WA3KIO

Haring Memorial Scholarship Update

Those Phil−Mont members and guests who attended the September general meeting witnessed the presentation of the 2003 Claude H. Haring, Jr., W3IIM, Memorial Scholarship. This second annual Phil−Mont scholarship was awarded to Eric Marano, N3YXZ, of Harleysville, PA. And the presentation to Eric was made by Michael Taraborrelli, N3MT, the winner of the first Haring scholarship last year. Both Eric and Mike happen to be Phil−Mont members, even though the selection of recipients is not made by our club, but rather by the prestigious Scholarship Committee of the Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc., headquartered in Maryland. F.A.R. , Inc., which represents some 80 clubs, handles the complete administration of from 50 to 75 ham radio scholarships each year, sponsored by amateur radio organizations across the country.

We were pleased to learn that both Eric, this year, and Michael, last year, were the unanimous choice of the F.A.R. Scholarship Committee to receive the Haring Memorial Scholarship, which carries a cash grant in the amount of $2,000. They were selected from all the eligible applicants residing in either the Eastern Pennsylvania (EPA) or Southern New Jersey (SNJ) ARRL Sections. Any student meeting this residence requirement, who holds a valid amateur radio license of any class, and who is enrolled−or accepted for enrollment−in a college or university seeking at least a baccalaureate degree, is eligible to apply for Phil−Mont's scholarship. (Incidentally, both Michael and Eric hold Extra Class licenses.)

The Haring Memorial Scholarship was established by the club in memory of "Jack" Haring, W3IIM, a long−time Phil−Mont member, officer, director, Blurb editor, webmaster?. who became a silent key just two years ago?and only three days after our Board had formally established a Scholarship Fund "to memorialize those amateurs who have made significant contributions to amateur radio and to the Phil−Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc." This "living memorial," crafted to encourage and assist young amateurs seeking a higher education, is funded by contributions of cash or salable radio equipment. And, because Phil−Mont is recognized by the I.R.S. as a "501(c)(3)" charitable organization, contributions to the Scholarship Fund qualify as deductions for federal income and estate tax purposes.

The "S−Meter" is reading only "S−5" as of the end of September. Obviously, we need another $1,000 by the end of December to fund the 2004 Haring Scholarship grant. For more information on how you can help the club reach our goal, contact W3RM, or visit the Phil−Mont web site at www.phil−mont.org.

October Birthdays

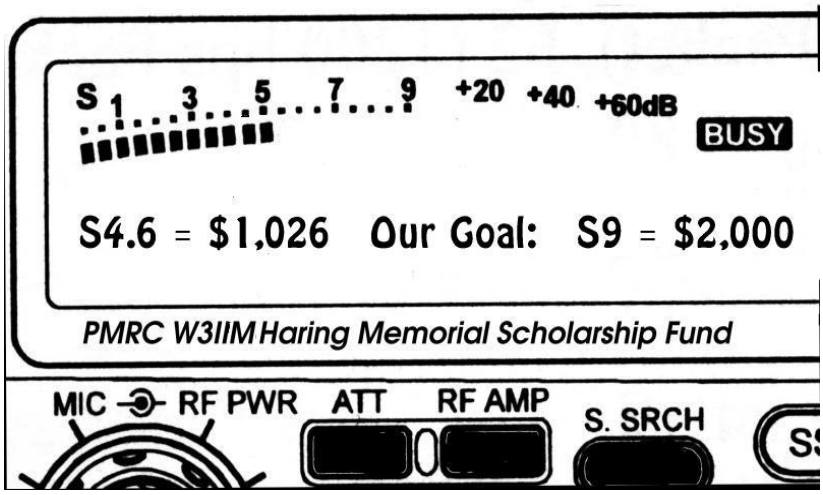
01 Pauline Green (XYL K3HES)
05 Delores Malone (XYL N3MGS)
Al Tribble − W3STW
12 Arnold Sadwin − KC2HX
14 Chris McCormick − N3JHR
19 Brad Swanson − N3GLH
20 Bob Gargano − N3YGY
22 Bill Popovic − W3AOK
23 Chap Fichera − KB3DQH
Ted Hassell − KB3HAQ
24 Roxanne Pearlstein − N3KQH
Delores Policarpo (XYL N3PP)
27 Mel Toren − N2MT
28 Elfriede Williams (XYL KB3CPC)
29 Bob Nicotero − KB2ERL
Betty Walmsley (XYL W3DO)

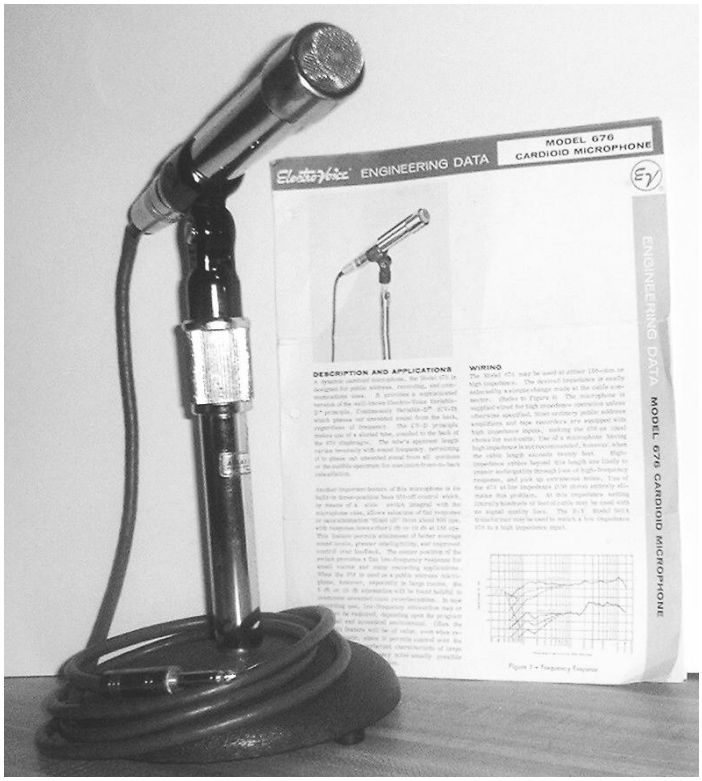
Membership Stats

At press time P.M.R.C. has:
108 FULL PAID MEMBERS
9 FAMILY MEMBERS
2 YOUTH MEMBERS
2 HONORARY MEMBERS
0 PENDING MEMBERS

Directory Supplement Changes

K3DTC
1710 Ridgeway Ave
Willow Grove PA 19090





For Sale

Electrovoice 676 microphone on 6" telescoping base
Selectable Low and High impedance via mic connector
Works well with most radios that use low Z input.
Quantity 2 available at $ 45.00 ea.
Contact: Rick Spencer N3FD on 147.03 repeater

Date	November 2003 with PMRC
Sat 01	
Sun 02	NCS: 2m K3XS − 75m W3YXZ
Mon 03	
Tue 04	Election Day
Wed 05	PMRC Board meets at WRDV
Thu 06	
Fri 07	VE Exams at Northeast High School − see p2
Sat 08	
Sun 09	NCS: 2m WU3I − 75m WA3KIO
Mon 10	
Tue 11	Veteran's Day
Wed 12	PMRC General Meeting at Masonic Village −− see p2
Thu 13	
Fri 14	
Sat 15	
Sun 16	NCS:2m KB3IV − 75m KB3IV
Mon 17	
Tue 18	
Wed 19	
Thu 20	
Fri 21	
Sat 22	
Sun 23	NCS: 2m WB3KOJ − 75m W3STW
Mon 24	
Tue 25	
Wed 26	
Thu 27	Thanksgiving
Fri 28	
Sat 29	
Sun 30	NCS: 2m W3BBB − 75m W3BBB

First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
641 Kismet Road Philadelphia PA 19115